



Washington, D.C. 20505

APPROVED FOR  
RELEASE DATE:  
23-Sep-2009

OCA 98-1195

20 April 1998

The Honorable James A. Leach  
Chairman  
Committee on Banking and  
Financial Services  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) asked me to reply to your April 2 and April 20, 1998 letters to him requesting further information regarding Barry Seal and associated matters.

The Inspector General (IG) has been working on those portions of your request that involve information the IG dealt with in preparing its previous report on these matters. Also, the Office of Congressional Affairs is working with the appropriate CIA components to respond to those aspects of your request that involve further records searches and additional information. Please understand that given the breadth of your questions, we will be unable to respond by the requested deadlines.

I regret any confusion that may have arisen during your recent dealings with the IG, with respect to that Office's role and the allocation of responsibility within CIA for answering Congressional inquiries. By way of clarification, this Office is the primary point of contact for responding to requests by Congress for CIA data or other support. I also note in this regard that section 17(b)(2) of the CIA Act places the IG under the general supervision of, and states that the IG shall report directly to, the DCI. For these reasons, as the IG's letter suggests, directing new requests for Agency information to the DCI or to this Office is generally the most appropriate avenue for addressing such requests.

27

8

The Honorable James A. Leach

Finally, please be assured the DCI and I take seriously all Congressional requests for information or other support. The Agency will do its best to respond to your current inquiry and to future requests or interests that you may have.

If we may be of further assistance, please call me at

Sincerely,

John/H. Moseman  
Director of Congressional Affairs